

NORWAY/KGB
AGENT

JENNINGS: While most of the world's developed nations maintain highly developed espionage systems, there is one kind of spy considered particularly dangerous. He's the mole, a secret agent actually working within one government, passing information to another. Last night, or chief foreign correspondent, Pierre Salinger examined the career of one such KGB agent in Norway. In a report from Europe tonight, we'll see how that spy was uncovered and how much damage he did.

SALINGER: When Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Oslo on Jan. 19, this year, just after his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Stockholm, he did not know that Arnie Treholt, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official who had arranged his visit, was a KGB agent. Treholt, for his part, did not know that after spying for the Soviets for 15 years, his double role was to be exposed in a matter of hours. On Jan. 20, it was here at Oslo airport that Treholt's mediatory career came to an end. Norway's counterintelligence police arrested him as he was heading for Vienna, carrying reams of highly sensitive military and political documents for his Soviet spy masters. KARE WILLOCH (Norwegian Prime Minister): I'm afraid that the damage has been substantial. But I cannot yet give you any full account of, ah, the, ah, damage made. TORE JOHNSON (Norwegian Counterintelligence): I can just say that, ah, in my view it's the most serious case we ever had in Norway.

SALINGER: When Treholt was first recruited in the late 1960s, he was reportedly turned into a sleeper, an agent on hold not asked to do any assignment. It was in 1973, when he became a career public servant at the Foreign Ministry with access to confidential documents, that the Soviets put him to work. His task was not only stealing documents, the full extent which for security reasons we will probably never know, it was also to use his influence for the benefit of the Soviet Union. During the Norwegian-Soviet negotiations on fishing rights in the Barents Sea, Treholt constantly kept the Russians informed of his country's bargaining positions and influenced Norway's Law of the Sea Minister *Yenz Evensen, to cede some 23,000 square miles of former Norwegian seas to the Soviets. He was a leader in the movement to halt deployment of new U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe, an action the Soviets fought desperately. Treholt is also accused of passing NATO wartime shipping contingency plans in the North Sea. In 1977, Norway's counterintelligence police learned there was a high-placed mole in the government. But it was not until 1980 that suspicion fell on Treholt, while he was working in New York at the Norwegian Mission to the U.N. The Norwegian

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authorities went to the FBI for help. Treholt used to jog frequently in Central Park. And it was here that the FBI succeeded in getting pictures of him with one of his spy masters, *Vladimir Gigian, who had once been assigned to Oslo. From then on, Treholt was under close surveillance, but despite that, on his return to Norway was admitted to the country's war college, where his fellow students elected him keeper of the safe, the place where classified documents were kept. But the net was closing in. He was photographed on several trips to Western European capitals, such as this one in Vienna, with two other top-level KGB agents, who had also served in Oslo. With all this information, why did it take so long to arrest Treholt? WILLOCH: A prematurist might have made, this lose the possibilities to gain useful information about the KGB and its activities in this country.

SALINGER: How many Arnie Treholts exist in Western Europe? According to top counterintelligence agents, the figure is probably in the hundreds. And the danger is that many of them, like Arnie Treholt, will escape detection for many years, providing the KGB and the Soviet Union invaluable information on the West's military and political plans. Pierre Salinger, ABC News, Oslo.